

intelligence agencies are reporting that the Iraq war is fueling global terrorism, making America less safe. After nearly 3½ years of the war in Iraq, nearly 2,700 American lives lost, our own independent government agencies are saying the incompetence of the Bush administration's Iraq policy is radicalizing and inspiring the creation of terrorists around the world.

Democrats are focused on fighting the war on terror, not creating terrorists. Democrats are focused on keeping America secure and bringing our troops home from Iraq safe and soon.

"I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO MEXICO"?

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Federal judges have been trying to rip the pledge of allegiance out of our schools and have prevented it from being recited by school kids in nine States. Now our pledge is under siege again. Our kids are being intimidated into pledging allegiance to a foreign flag.

Velasco Elementary in Texas celebrated Mexican Independence Day by handing out small Mexican flags and making children as young as pre-kindergarten stand as parents recited the Mexican pledge in Spanish. That pledge honors the heroes of Mexico, promising always to be faithful and dedicate loyalty to that nation.

Pledging allegiance to a foreign flag is un-American. The principal of the school, Sam Williams, justified reciting the pledge meekly by saying, "Well, we want to be diverse at our school."

There is only one flag our children should uphold and hold. There is only one pledge that they should recite. The Mexican Government and illegals may have their sights on retaking the Southwest, but we will not hand it over to them one student at a time. In the words of the Texans who fought originally for Mexican independence, you'll have to "come and take it." Our loyalty is to America, not to Mexico.

And that's just the way it is.

APPLAUDING THE CAPITOL FLAG OFFICE EMPLOYEES

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the courageous actions of employees in the U.S. Capitol flag office.

Last week, an armed intruder evaded security and broke into the Capitol, leading police on a chase spanning four floors of the building. The perpetrator represented a serious threat to the safety of Members, staff, and the visiting public. At the time of his capture, he was carrying a .22 caliber pistol and was high on crack cocaine. But thanks

to the sharp instincts, quick thinking, and decisive action of a trio of Capitol flag office employees, Monday, September 18, was not to be a tragic day. According to published reports, these brave employees were able to subdue the intruder, holding him in custody until Capitol Police arrived.

Mr. Speaker, I have got some serious concerns, as I think we all do, regarding how easily Capitol security was breached last week. We have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on securing the Capitol and increasing the size of the police force since 9/11. But that is a debate for another time and place. Today, I want to use this time on the House floor to recognize individuals from the flag office involved in last week's security breach. They are part of a team who day in and day out ensure that constituents across the country receive their own crisp edition of the Stars and Stripes freshly flown over the Capitol dome. Their actions in a dangerous situation speak volumes, displaying a willingness to put their safety on the line for this institution and for their fellow workers.

ENGLISH AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the old saying, "united we stand, divided we fall," is so true. Just as common language can unite a people, the lack of a unified national language can be enormously divisive. However, the Senate's immigration bill failed the American people by giving them a watered down, feel-good statement that does nothing.

New immigrants already have to learn English to become citizens. It is only common sense that we come together under one unified language by making English the official language of the United States. Listen up, America: enough is enough. United we stand, and English we speak.

A BLESSED NATION

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we are a blessed Nation. We have not suffered another attack on our soil since September 11, and we are grateful. We have killed or captured dozens of members of al Qaeda and the Taliban. Our military and intelligence forces are working both hard and smart.

After two decades of having U.S. interests attacked by the terrorists, we have taken the war on terrorism to the terrorists' backyard. For decades, whether it was the Iranian hostage crisis, the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, the first World Trade Center bombing, or the USS *Cole* bombing, we did not

view terrorist attacks as a declaration of war. And that is what they were, but we didn't see it. We used law enforcement to go after terrorists and we sought to negotiate. What a mistake that was. But it is a mistake all too many who prefer appeasement want us to repeat.

Can any of us even imagine, after Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt suggesting we negotiate a resolution or that we could simply prosecute those involved? Of course it is unimaginable. We are right to be in the Middle East, and we are right to treat this as the war it is.

BERRY COLLEGE

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Berry College in Rome, Georgia, which this year was named as one of the top two colleges in the South by the prestigious U.S. News and World Report rankings.

For those of us who know Berry College, this honor comes as no surprise. This past spring I had the honor of addressing Berry College at the 2006 graduation ceremony. I was incredibly impressed by the student body. Berry is helping mold engaged, eager, driven students into the kind of leaders our communities are fortunate to have.

Berry College's founder and namesake, Martha Berry, once noted that education combines the head, the heart, and the hands. I know Berry students are receiving a superior education that combines high-quality academic learning with moral and spiritual growth and experience and worthwhile service to others. This makes Berry not only one of the top colleges in the South but in the Nation as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Berry's president, Stephen Briggs, and the students, faculty, staff, and alumni that have made Berry College into a premier educational institution.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 22, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER:

Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 22, 2006, at 9:15 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3127.

That the Senate passed S. Con. Res. 116.

That the Senate passed S. 2562.